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March 12, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of the Elmwood RL02 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place one remote Base Station approximately 4 miles west southwest of the Elmwood Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The Elmwood remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Elmwood Central Office. An electronic version of this filing has also been submitted to the NUSF Staff.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures

WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Elmwood EXCHANGE RL02

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Northwestern area of Elmwood, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Elmwood is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Northwestern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no broadband or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 5.8 miles Northwest of the Elmwood Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office.
- The Elmwood remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to the Elmwood Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$145,417, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$50,727, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program or have a wireline competitor. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Elmwood Exchange RL02

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC?	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310259658001122	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	53	62%
310259658001123	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	30	35%
310259658001159	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
310259658001160	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	3	3%
310259658001161	CAF2			CAF2	Total	86	100%
310259658001162	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001167	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	30	34.9%
310259658001169	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001170	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001171	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001177	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001179	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001180	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001181	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001182	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001183	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001184	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001197	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001207	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001214	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001215	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001216	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001221	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001245	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001246	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001247	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001248	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001256	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001265	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001277	CAF2			CAF2			
310259658001279	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003003	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003005	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003006	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003009	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003010	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003011	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003012	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003013	CAF2			CAF2			

Check List #3 Subscribers - Elmwood Exchange RL02

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Elmwood	75

Estimated Broadband Take Rate	50%
New Broadband Subscribers	38

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Elmwood Exchange RL02

Budget

Remote Sites

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	1	\$0	\$1,000	
Fiber Buildout	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	54	\$0	\$972	
Site Engineering	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300	1	\$0	\$3,300	
Site Acquisition	\$10,183	\$0	\$10,183	1	\$0	\$10,183	
Power Make Ready	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	1	\$0	\$18,000	
95' AGL Wood Pole	\$10,000	\$23,800	\$33,800	1	\$23,800	\$33,800	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	1	\$8,825	\$15,950	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,070	\$5,000	\$10,070	1	\$5,000	\$10,070	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$9,000	1	\$7,500	\$9,000	Pole-mounted
Total					\$67,179	\$142,058	

Tax	\$67,179	5.00%		\$3,359
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Grand Total				\$145,417
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Excluded

ROW				\$0
IDC	\$67,179	5.00%		\$3,359

Total Project Costs	\$145,417
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% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2	34.9%
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Requested Funding Amount	\$50,727
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Depreciation Lives

	Life in Years
Fixed Wireless Assets	45
Poles	33

Check List #6 Pricing - Elmwood Exchange RL02

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
50Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
100Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
1 Gbps		\$75	\$20 off for 12 months	\$55

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
50Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
100Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
1 Gbps		\$95	\$20 off for 12 months	\$75

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Brad Brannon


ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

:SS

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 5 day of April 2018
by Brad Brannon



Notary Public

